

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed May 18, 2004. At the time of the Final Office Action, Claims 1-23 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-23 stand rejected. No Amendments are being made at this time. In view of the remarks set forth below, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-17, and 20-23 were rejected by the Office under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,466,989 issued to Hslao-Wei Chu (hereafter "Chu"). For the reasons set forth below, the Applicants respectfully traverse the Office's rejection.

Claims 1-4 and 6-9

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation formerly recited in Claim 4. Claim 4 has been cancelled. The Applicant's respectfully request entry of this amendment on the basis that the amendment places the Claims in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added by this amendment, and the amendment is fully supported by the specification as originally filed.

In rejecting Claim 1, the office asserts that FIGURE 2 of Chu discloses a method that comprises determining a cable connection *to be made* between a first computing component and a second computing component. The Office further asserts that Chu discloses generating a signal on the first computing component indicative of the cabling connection *to be made*. In support of this rejection, the office refers to Chu, column 2, lines 50-55, and column 5, lines 45-50.

The Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office's assertions based on Chu. Rather than disclosing methods dealing with cable connections *to be made*, Chu discloses methods that are useful for verifying connections *after those connections have already been*

made. See Chu, column 2, lines 52-56, “First, as soon as the network connection device is physically connected...”.

Thus, Chu fails to teach or suggest either “determining a cable connection *to be made*...,” or “generating a signal on the first computing component and the second computing component indicative of the cabling connection *to be made*.” Inasmuch as Chu does not teach or suggest either of these elements, Chu does not teach or suggest each and every element of Applicant’s Claim 1.

Furthermore, amended Claim 1 recites the limitation formerly recited in Claim 4, “repeating the steps of determining a cabling connection and generating a signal until each of the plurality of computing components has been connected as desired for the installation.” The Office asserted that column 2, lines 29-32 of Chu teaches this element. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Although the cited portion of Chu states, “The control circuit is coupled to the interface circuit and switching array responsible for overseeing the entire network connection,” the cited portion of Chu does not teach or suggest repeating the steps of determining a cabling connection *to be made* and generating a signal indicative of the cabling connection *to be made*, as required generally by amended Claim 1.

The Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) cannot be sustained on the basis of Chu. For at least this reason, the Applicants respectfully request the Office to withdraw its rejection of independent Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e).

Inasmuch as Claims 2-3 and 6-9 depend from allowable independent Claim 1, the Applicants submit that Claims 2-3 and 6-9 are also allowable, and respectfully request such allowance.

Claims 10-12 and 14-15

Claim 10 has been amended to include the limitation formerly recited in Claim 11. Claim 12 has been amended to maintain proper antecedent basis. Claim 11 has been cancelled. The Applicant's respectfully request entry of this amendment, because the amendment places the Claims in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added by this amendment, and the amendment is fully supported by the specification as originally filed.

The Office asserts that Chu teaches a program of instructions operable to generate at least one signal indicative of a cabling connection *to be made* between at least a first computing component of a plurality of computing components operably coupled to a communications network. In support of this assertion, the Office points to Chu, column 7, lines 5-10; column 5, lines 47-50; and column 6, lines 18-20. Each of the cited portions of Chu *presupposes that a connection has previously been made* between the components. In view of the fact that Chu discloses methods to be used after cables have been physically connected, and the fact that Chu does not address generating signals indicative of a cabling connection *to be made*, the Applicants submit that Chu does not teach or suggest each and every element of independent Claim 10. Furthermore, notwithstanding the Office's rejection of Claim 11, the Applicants submit that Chu does not teach determining a cabling connection *to be made* between the first computing component and at least a second computing component.

For at least these reasons, the Applicants request the Office to withdraw its rejection of Claim 10, and allow Claim 10 to issue. Since Claims 12 and 14-15 depend from allowable independent Claim 10, Claims 12 and 14-15 are themselves allowable, which allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-17 and 20-23

Claim 16 has been amended to include the limitation formerly recited in Claim 17. Claim 17 has been cancelled. The Applicant's respectfully request entry of this amendment, because the amendment places the Claims in condition for allowance. No new matter has

been added by this amendment, and the amendment is fully supported by the specification as originally filed.

Claim 16 recites a computing system that comprises a plurality of computing components, at least one of the computing components operable to identify a first computing component to be connected to a second computing component and operable to identify the second computing component to be connected to the first computing component. Such a computing component is also claimed as being operable to generate at least one signal on the first computing component *indicative of a cabling connection to be made* between the first computing component and the second computing component. Inasmuch as Chu does not teach or suggest a computing component that is operable to generate at least one signal on the first computing component *indicative of a cabling connection to be made*, the Applicants submit that Chu does not teach or suggest each and every element of independent Claim 16. Furthermore, notwithstanding the Office's rejection of Claim 17, the Applicants submit that Chu does not teach generating at least one signal on the second computing component indicative of a cabling connection *to be made* between the second computing component and the first computing component.

For at least these reasons, the Applicants respectfully request the office to withdraw its rejection of independent Claim 16. Claims 20-23 depend from allowable independent Claim 16, and for at least this reason the Applicants submit that Claims 20-23 are themselves allowable. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request the Office to withdraw its rejection of these claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 5, 13, 18, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chu in view of U.S. Patent 5,761,294 issued to Shmuel Shaffer et al. (hereafter "Shaffer"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the Office's rejections.

Claim 5

In its rejection, the office states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine an LED device, such as that disclosed by Shaffer, with the teachings of Chu, to arrive at the Applicants' claimed invention. The Applicants submit that activity lights are generally used to monitor activity on cables which have been previously connected. Since the Applicants claimed invention recites at least one LED on the first computing component and at least one LED on the second computing component indicative of the cabling connection *to be made* between the first computing component and the second computing component, the Applicants submit that the combination of Shaffer and Chu does not teach and suggest each and every element of Applicants' Claim 5. Thus, a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) can not be sustained. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request the office to withdraw its rejection of Claim 5.

Claim 13

The Applicants submit that the combination of Shaffer and Chu does not teach or suggest a program of instructions operable to illuminate at least one LED on the first computing component indicative of the cabling connection *to be made* with the first computing component. Furthermore, Claim 13 depends from allowable independent Claim 10. For at least these reasons, the Applicants respectfully request the office to withdraw its rejection of Claim 13.

Claims 18-19

Claim 18 recites at least one LED on the second computing component to indicate the cabling connection *to be made* between the first computing component and the second computing component. The Applicants submit that the combination of Shaffer and Chu does not teach or suggest all elements recited in Applicants' claims, and therefore requests the office to withdraw its rejection of Claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a). Inasmuch as Claim 19 depends from allowable Claim 18, which in turn depends from allowable independent Claim 16, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 18 and 19 are in condition for allowance.

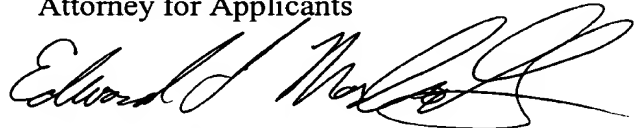
CONCLUSION

The application has been reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed May 18, 2004. Applicants appreciate the Office's careful review of the application. Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and full allowance of all remaining claims.

Applicants believe there are no additional fees due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees to Deposit Account No. 02-0383 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2545.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorney for Applicants



Edward J. Marshall
Reg. No. 45,395

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Baker Botts L.L.P.

CUSTOMER ACCOUNT NO. **23640**

512.322.2545

512.322.8319 (fax)

Date: 7/9/2004